

MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of Proposed State Action

FWP proposes to build a new pit latrine approximately 150 Ft northeast of the existing Group Use Shelter in the Heritage side of Giant Springs Heritage State Park. In addition the old pit latrine located approximately 300 ft west of the Group use Shelter will be removed and the site rehabilitated.

2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action

FWP has authority to provide development and access for public recreation. **23-2-101 MCA.**

3. Name of Project

Heritage Latrine Project

4. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)

FWP - Parks Division
P.O. Box 6610
Great Falls MT 59406
(406)454-5840

5. If Applicable:

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date 6/24/98

Estimated Completion Date 6/26/98.

Current Status of Project Design (% complete) 75%

6. Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)

Cascade County: Sec 33, R4E, T21N.

7. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

- (a) Developed:
- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| residential | <u>0</u> acres |
| industrial | <u>0</u> acres |
- (b) Open Space/Woodlands/Recreation
- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| | <u>< 1</u> acres |
|--|---------------------|
- (c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas
- | | |
|--|----------------|
| | <u>0</u> acres |
|--|----------------|
- (d) Floodplain
- | | |
|--|----------------|
| | <u>0</u> acres |
|--|----------------|
- (e) Productive:
- | | |
|--|----------------|
| irrigated cropland <u>0</u> dry cropland | <u>0</u> acres |
| forestry | <u>0</u> acres |
| rangeland | <u>0</u> acres |
| other | <u>0</u> acres |

8. **Map/site plan:** attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.

9. Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.

This Project will allow FWP to fulfill their long term commitment to improving the Heritage latrines. Over the years FWP has received numerous complaints against the existing latrine which is smelly and vents poorly. While cleaned everyday the latrine gives the impression that it is filthy and most visitors find the experience of using quite unpleasant. In addition the location of the existing latrine is poorly suited for the main latrine servicing Heritage SP. The new location is more visible and centrally located for convenient use by the public. Any odors emanating from the new location will drift to the NE due to the prevailing SW winds.

Handicapped accessibility will be improved by installation near a handicapped parking stall and ADA compliant sidewalk access. The existing latrine is neither accessible by ADA standards via the sidewalk or large enough to provide wheelchair access.

10. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

(a) Permits:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
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None

(b) Funding:

<u>FWP Parks Division Major Maintenance</u>	<u>100%</u>
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(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
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None

11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

Fish Wildlife and Parks Region 4
Fish Wildlife and Parks Design and Construction Bureau Helena Headquarters

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. LAND RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant		
▶ a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?		X				
▶ c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- ▼ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. AIR Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant		
► a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))		X				
b. Creation of objectionable odors?			X			a
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. ♦ For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)		X				
f. Other _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- a. The prevailing winds will actually carry objectional odors away from the Group Use area.

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
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PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

3. WATER	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
► a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)		X				
m. ♦For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)		X				
n. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

a. Source Giant Springs already take as much water from Giant Springs as will be drawn by the new supply line.

☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

♦ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

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PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. <u>VEGETATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?		X				
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		X				
f. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

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- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
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PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

► 5. FISH/WILDLIFE	IMPACT [⊙]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [⊙]	Comment Index
	Unknown [⊙]	None	Minor [⊙]	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)		X				
i. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)		X				
j. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

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- ♦ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
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HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X			a.
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- a. Some noise will occur during construction but will not be objectionable for more than a day.

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
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HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

7. LAND USE	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of, or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

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- ◆ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
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HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

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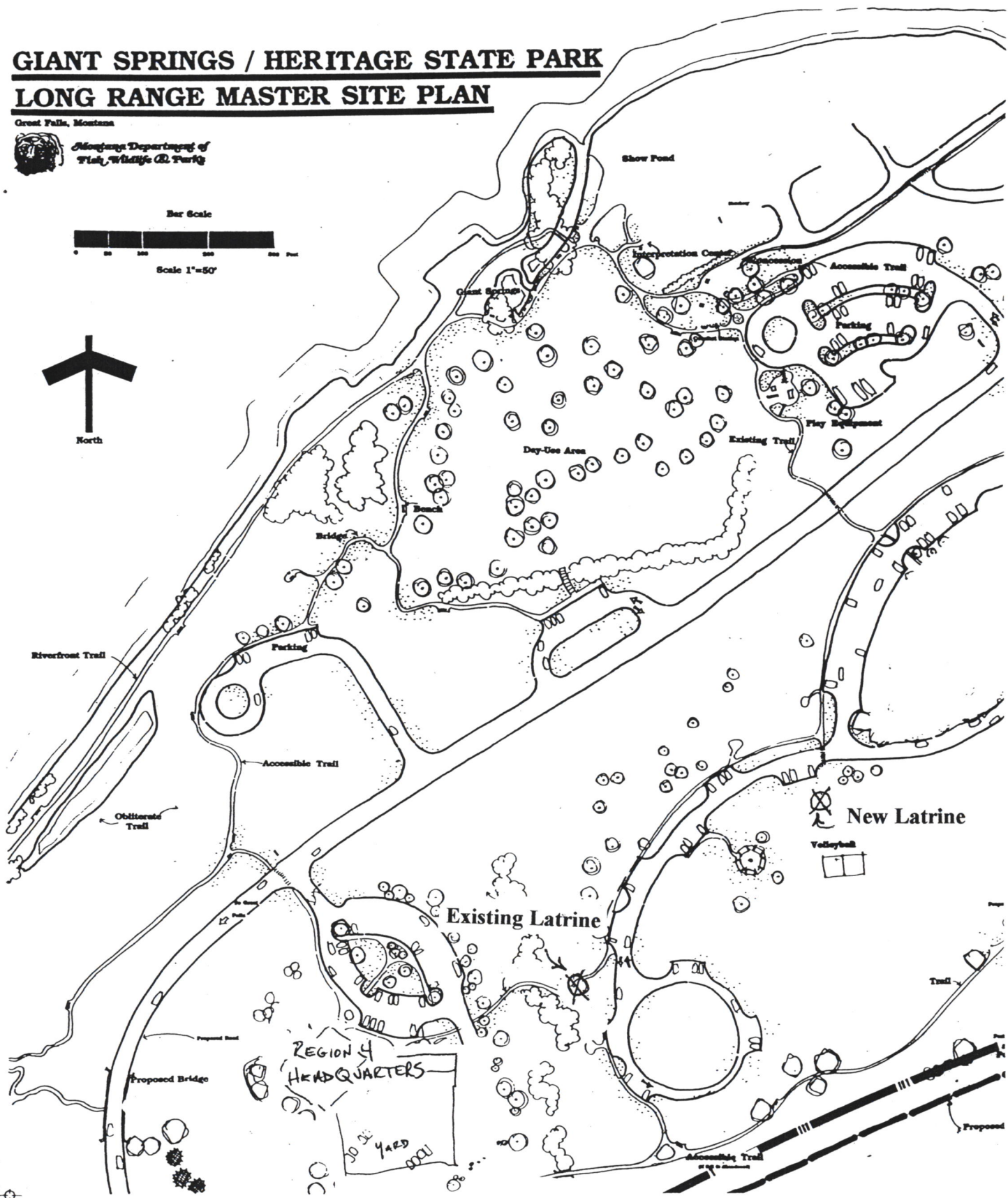
GIANT SPRINGS / HERITAGE STATE PARK

LONG RANGE MASTER SITE PLAN

Great Falls, Montana



Montana Department of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks



HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

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HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [⊙]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [⊙]	Comment Index
	Unknown [⊙]	None	Minor [⊙]	Potentially Significant		
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased used of any energy source?		X				
▶ e. Define projected revenue sources		X				
▶ f. Define projected maintenance costs.		X				
g. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

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- ▶ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
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HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
▶ c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational or tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)				X		a
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- a. This project will have a significant effect on improving the quality of the Recreational experience at Heritage State Park. No Tourism Report is necessary at this time.

☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

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HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
► a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a)		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

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HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:						
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. ♦For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)		X				
g. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.		X				

narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

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1. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

No Action.

Without action FWP will still have the existing Pit latrine with it's attendant problems, and complaints. Handicapped accessibility will remain an issue and odors and venting a major source of dissatisfaction at Giant Springs Heritage State Park.

Project as proposed.

The preferred alternative. This option gives FWP a new toilet facility, in a better location to serve the park and will diminish the number of complaints about the latrine in Heritage. Handicapped accessibility will be improved and the entire situation at the Group Use Area will be improved,.

2. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

No mitigation is necessary.

3. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

An EIS is not required.

With no anticipated significant impacts to the environment or the public the EA is the appropriate level of analysis.

4. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

A public comment period of 10 working days is deemed appropriate for a project of such innocuous impacts. This period will begin Wednesday June 3, 1998 and continue through June 16. All comments must be received by FWP by 5:00 Tuesday June 16, 1998.

5. Duration of comment period if any.

10 working days

6. Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:

Dan Smith
Parks Operation Specialist
P.O. Box 6610
Great Falls, MT. 59406 (406)454-5840.

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- ▶ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
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PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

With no impacts to the environment and only positive impacts to the recreational facilities it is FWP's recommendation that this project proceed as quickly as it can.



Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.



Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)



Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.



Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.